# ForestrySA | MEDIA RELEASE

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### ForestrySA's historic photographic collection given new life online

Members of the public can now peruse South Australia's forestry history in pictures, thanks to a unique community collaboration.

ForestrySA has built up an extensive collection of historical images throughout its 140 year history, documenting the birth and development of South Australia's forestry industry.

Some of these images date back as early as 1900 and were captured right across the state's main forest-growing districts in the Green Triangle, Mount Lofty Ranges and Mid North.

For many years, these photographs have sat in storage at ForestrySA's Mount Gambier Corporate Office. But this has now changed, thanks to a community collaboration between ForestrySA, the Mount Gambier Library and OneFortyOne Plantations.

More than 1,800 of the 3,000-plus image collection has been digitised over the last six months thanks to the work of a small, dedicated group of volunteers.

This group has spent hundreds of hours at the Mount Gambier Library making digital copies of the photographs and accompanying metadata.

ForestrySA Chief Operating Officer and avid photographer Ockert le Roux said historic images were as intriguing, as they were invaluable.

"A photograph quite literally freezes a moment time. Looking back on historic images provides us with rare insight into times gone by and can also evoke very powerful emotion," he said.

"ForestrySA is very pleased to bring these photographs out of the dark, dusty archives and back into the daylight for the enjoyment of history and forestry enthusiasts across the world."

Mount Gambier Library Manager Vicki Hutchinson said digitising the image collection had been in the pipeline for many years.

"Our small team of dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly to make access to this collection a reality," Ms Hutchinson said.

She said Green Triangle forest owner OneFortyOne Plantations was very keen to see the region's forestry history preserved and had agreed to fund a new high-tech piece of scanning equipment.

Ms Hutchinson said this could be used by library users and would assist in the preservation of historic image collections into the future.

"The Library will be able to provide additional facilities and assistance for those interested in preserving their own history and share stories that document our region's rich and interesting history," Ms Hutchinson said.

The collection is now available to view online at www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library.

New images are added daily, as volunteers continue their time-consuming scanning and data entry work.

**ENDS**